



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/020,605	12/11/2001	Bharadwaj S. Amrutur	10010107-1	6541

7590 03/30/2006
AGILENT TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
Legal Department, DL429
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 7599
Loveland, CO 80537-0599

EXAMINER

TORRES, JOSEPH D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2133

DATE MAILED: 03/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Interview Summary	Application No. 10/020,605	Applicant(s) AMRUTUR ET AL.	
	Examiner Joseph D. Torres	Art Unit 2133	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

- (1) Joseph D. Torres. (3) _____
 (2) Steven Greenfield. (4) _____

Date of Interview: 23 March 2006.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
 c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.
 If Yes, brief description: N/A.

Claim(s) discussed: 1.

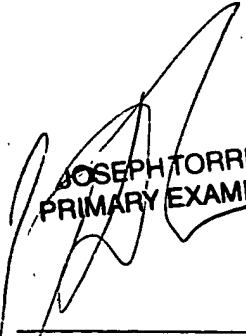
Identification of prior art discussed: Kumar.

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached. g) ☐ was not reached. h) ☒ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Discussed possible amended claim language to overcome prior rejection.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.


 JOSEPH TORRES
 PRIMARY EXAMINER

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.

Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

HOWISON & ARNOTT, L.L.P.

A LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP INCLUDING PROFESSIONAL CORPORATIONS

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
PATENT AND TRADEMARK MATTERS**Attorneys:**JOHN J. ARNOTT, P.C.
STEVEN R. GREENFIELD, P.C.
GREGORY M. HOWISON, P.C.
BRIAN D. WALKER, P.C.
DAVID G. WOODRALTWO LINCOLN CENTRE
5420 LBJ Freeway, Suite 660
Dallas, Texas 75240-2318
Telephone (972) 479-0462
Facsimile (972) 479-0464**Austin Office:**

Telephone (512) 328-3994

Direct Dial (972) 680-6058
email: SGreenfield@DalPat.com

CONFIRMATION SENT VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL

YES ___ NO XNUMBER OF PAGES TO FOLLOW 12**FACSIMILE COVER SHEET****DATE:** March 8, 2006**TO:** Joseph Torres, Group 2133**COMPANY:** United States Patent And Trademark Office**FAX NUMBER:** 571 273-3829**FROM:** STEVEN GREENFIELD (972) 680-6058**SERIAL NO:** 10/020,605**OUR FILE:** 10010107-1 (AGIL-27349)**ATTACHED (pages):** Applicant Initiated Interview Request Form(1), and Draft Amendment (11)

The information contained in or attached to this FAX message is intended only for the confidential use of the individual(s) named above. If you are not the named recipient or an agent responsible for delivering it to the named recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this document in error and that review, dissemination or copying of this communication is prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by telephone and return the original documents to us by mail. Thank you

COMMENT:

PTOL-413A (08-04)
Approved for use through 07/31/2008. OMB 0851-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Applicant Initiated Interview Request Form

Application No.: 10/020605 First Named Applicant: B. AMRUTUR
Examiner: TORRES, Joseph Art Unit: 2133 Status of Application: NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Tentative Participants:

(1) Steven GREENFIELD (2) _____
(3) _____ (4) _____

Proposed Date of Interview: 3/17 Proposed Time: 2pm (AM/PM)
Eastern Standard

Type of Interview Requested:

(1) ☒ Telephonic (2) ☐ Personal (3) ☐ Video Conference

Exhibit To Be Shown or Demonstrated: ☐ YES ☒ NO
If yes, provide brief description: _____

Issues To Be Discussed

Issues (Rej., Obj., etc)	<u>Claims</u> Fig. #s	Prior Art	Discussed	Agreed	Not Agreed
(1) <u>obj</u>	<u>4, 5</u>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(2) <u>Rej</u>	<u>5, 34-37</u>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(3) <u>Rej</u>	<u>1, 34-37</u>	<u>KUMAR,</u> ADAM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(4) <u>Rej</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>ADAM</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐ Continuation Sheet Attached

Brief Description of Arguments to be Presented: DRAFT Amendment Attached.

An interview was conducted on the above-identified application on _____

NOTE: This form should be completed by applicant and submitted to the examiner in advance of the interview (see MPEP § 713.01).

This application will not be delayed from issue because of applicant's failure to submit a written record of this interview. Therefore, applicant is advised to file a statement of the substance of this interview (37 CFR 1.133(b)) as soon as possible.

Steven R. Greenfield
Applicant/Applicant's Representative Signature

Examiner/SPE Signature

STEVEN R. GREENFIELD
Typed/Printed Name of Applicant or Representative

38, 1660

Registration Number, if applicable

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.133. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 25 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. These will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

DRAFTDocket No.: AGIL-27,349
10010107-1
(PATENT)**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**In re Patent Application of:
Bharadwaj S. Amrutur

Application No.: 10/020,605

Confirmation No.: 6541

Filed: December 11, 2001

Art Unit: 2133

For: SERIAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND
METHOD

Examiner: Joseph D. Torres

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTIONMS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office or is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: _____

Signature: _____

Steven R. Greenfield

DRAFT

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated January 4, 2006 (Paper No. 20051221), please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.

Docket No.: AGIL-27,349
10010107-1
(PATENT)

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

DRAFT

1 1. (Currently Amended) A serial communications link comprising:
2 a scrambler device for receiving a source encoded data bit stream, the scrambler device
3 scrambles the data bit stream into scrambled groups of data ~~in the data bit stream~~ to statistically
4 balance the number of logic low and logic high bits in the groups of data; and
5 an ECC encoder device that receives the scrambled groups of data from the scrambler
6 device and converts said scrambled groups of data into ECC-encoded data.

1 2. (Original) The system as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:
2 a serializer for converting said ECC-encoded data into serialized data; wherein the ECC-
3 encoded data includes frame alignment information; and
4 the system further comprises a receiver for receiving said serialized data and converting
5 the serialized data into data frames based upon the frame alignment information.

1 3. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 2, wherein the receiver
2 comprises:
3 a frame-recoverer for converting said serialized data into data frames;
4 an ECC decoder for converting said data frames into ECC-decoded data and error
5 indications; and
6 a descrambler for converting said ECC-decoded data into de-scrambled data.

1 4. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 3, wherein said frame-
2 recoverer uses said error indications in converting said serialized data into data frames.

1 5. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in Claim 1, wherein said ECC encoder
2 applies an error correction code in converting said scrambled groups of data into said ECC-
3 encoded data.

Docket No.: AGIL -27,349

10010107-1

(PATENT)

DRAFT

1 6. (Currently Amended) A serial communications method, comprising the steps of:
2 receiving a data bit stream, from an originating source, at a scrambler device, said data
3 bit stream comprising data bits and other bits;
4 converting said data bit stream into groups of scrambled data, by said scrambler device,
5 prior to performing another data function on said data bit stream, said groups of scrambled data
6 each comprising groups of data bits having a statistically balanced number of logic low and logic
7 high data bits in each group; and
8 converting said scrambled data into ECC-encoded data.

1 7. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 6, further comprising the steps of:
2 generating a serial stream of the ECC-encoded data; and
3 transmitting said serial stream.

1 8. (Original) The method of Claim 7, wherein:
2 the ECC-encoded data includes frame alignment information; and
3 the method further comprises receiving said serialized data and converting said serialized
4 data into data frames based upon said frame alignment information.

1 9. (Original) The method of Claim 7, further comprising:
2 receiving said serialized data;
3 converting said serialized data into data frames;
4 converting said data frames into ECC-decoded data and error indications; and
5 converting said ECC-decoded data into de-scrambled data.

1 10. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein the step of converting the serialized data
2 comprises converting the serialized data into data frames based upon said error indications.

Docket No.: AGIL-27,349
10010107-1
(PATENT)

DRAFT

1 11. -- 33. (Canceled)

1 34. (Currently Amended) A serial communication link comprising:

2 a scrambler device programed to convert a received bit stream into groups of K
3 scrambled data bits so as to statistically balance the number of logic low and logic high bits in
4 each group of K scrambled data bits, said received bit stream being without redundant bits and
5 without being substantially only source encoded prior to being scrambled ; and

6 an ECC encoder programmed to convert said scrambled data into ECC-encoded data.

1 35. (Currently Amended) A serial communications link comprising:

2 a scrambler device for receiving a data bit stream having being substantially only data
3 source encoded ~~no previous encoding or byte reordering done to said data bit stream~~, the
4 scrambler device scrambles the data bit stream into scrambled groups of data ~~in the data bit~~
5 ~~stream and converts said data bit stream into scrambled groups of data~~; and

6 an ECC encoder device that receives the scrambled groups of data from the scrambler
7 device and converts said scrambled groups of data into ECC-encoded data.

1 36. (Currently Amended) A serial communications method, comprising the steps of:

2 receiving a data bit stream at a scrambler device, said data bit stream comprising data bits
3 and other bits resulting from data source encoding ~~that have not been previously encoded or byte~~
4 ~~reordered~~;

5 converting said data bit stream into grouped scrambled data, by said scrambler device,
6 prior to performing another data function on said data bit stream; and

7 converting said scrambled data into ECC-encoded data.

Docket No.: AGIL -27,349

10010107-1

(PATENT)

DRAFT

- 1 37. (Currently Amended) A serial communication link comprising:
- 2 a scrambler device programmed to convert a data source encoded ~~an unencoded-received~~
- 3 bit stream[[,]] into grouped scrambled data; and
- 4 an ECC encoder programmed to convert said scrambled data into ECC-encoded data.

DRAFT

Docket No.: AGIL -27,349

10010107-1

(PATENT)

REMARKS

Reconsideration and Allowance are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-10 and 34-37 are pending in this Application.

Claims 1, 5, 6 and 34-37 have been amended.

Regarding the Claim Objections

Claim 5 was objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) for having improper dependent form and for failing to further limit the subject matter of the previous claim.

Applicant has carefully reviewed Claim 5 and notes that it is properly dependent upon Claim 1. Furthermore, Claim 5 further limits the subject matter of Claim 1 by stating "said ECC encoder applies an error correction code in converting said scrambled groups of data in said ECC-encoding data." It is understood that an ECC device may perform its error correction code method using various hardware and software related techniques, which involve the use or non-use of polynomials or codes. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to Claim 5 be withdrawn because claim 5 is properly dependant on Claim 1 and because Claim 5 further limits the subject matter of Claim 1.

Claim 4 was objected to because it is thought to substantially recite elements that are already in Claim 1. Applicant respectfully points out that Claim 4 is dependent upon Claim 3 and narrows the scope of the frame-recoverer, which is not recited in Claim 1. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the claim objection to Claim 4 be withdrawn.

DRAFTDocket No.: AGIL -27,349
10010107-1
(PATENT)**Regarding the § 112 Rejection**

Claims 5 and 34-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention.

With respect to Claim 5, Applicant has amended Claim 5 to correct the insufficient antecedent basis that was pointed out by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully requests that the §112 rejection be withdrawn.

With respect to Claims 34-37, Applicant understands the confusion that the Examiner encountered in determining the meaning of the claims. As such, Applicant has amended Claims 34-37 to recite generally that the data bit stream being received is substantially only source encoded. As such, Applicant respectfully believes that these claims are now definite and particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully appreciates the Examiner's careful review of these claims and proper assumption that the received bit stream is at least source encoded.

Regarding the § 101 Rejection

Claims 34-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 because it was believed the claims lack patentable utility. Applicant has amended Claims 34-37 to make clear that the received bit stream is substantially data source encoded or resulting from data source encoding. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that this §101 rejection be withdrawn and submits that these claims are ready for allowance.

Regarding the § 102 Rejection

Claims 1, 5, 34, 35 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for being anticipated by *Kumar* (U.S. Patent Number 5,825,807). Applicant would agree that *Kumar* teaches a

DRAFTDocket No.: AGIL -27,349
10010107-1
(PATENT)

scrambler device that receives a bit stream (scrambler 102 in Fig. 9 of *Kumar*). The *Kumar* scrambler device does not scramble groups of data in the data bit stream, but instead only teaches scrambling the data in the data bit stream. This is made clear by reading *Kumar* with respect to Fig. 9, which is a block diagram of the transmitter system according to one of *Kumar*'s embodiments. Note that *Kumar* discusses Fig. 9 by referring back to Fig. 1 on various occasions. See Column 20, Lines 24-52. Referring back to Fig. 1 and the related discussion of Fig. 1 in *Kumar*, we find that the source bit information (message) 1 is randomized by scrambler 2, which multiplies the binary message 1 by a scrambling polynomial. Column 6, Lines 55-64. After the scrambling function is performed 2 then "redundancy is added to the scrambled source message by error correction code (ECC) encoder 3." *Kumar* Column 7, Lines 12-15. *Kumar* does not teach, allude to, or anticipate using the scrambler 2 to scramble the data bit stream into groups of data. In fact, *Kumar* does not teach, anticipate, or suggest dividing the data stream into groups until after the ECC encoding. The error encoded message is reordered by interleaver 4 after the error encoded message is interleaved, only then is the data divided into groups. At Column 7 beginning at Line 57, *Kumar* states, "the encoded and interleaved message is divided into groups of bits, which are to be simultaneously transmitted in a single information symbol or baud, by serial-to-parallel converter 5." As such, *Kumar* specifically requires that the data stream not be divided into groups until after it is encoded, interleaved and transmitted by the serial-to-parallel converter.

With respect to Independent Claim 1, this claim recites, among other things, that "the scrambler device scrambles the data bit stream into scrambled groups of data." With respect to Claim 34, this claim recites, among other things, "a scrambler device programmed to convert a received bit stream into groups of K scrambled data bits." Claim 35 recites, among other things, "[T]he scrambler device scrambles the data bit stream into scrambled groups of data." And,

DRAFTDocket No.: AGIL-27,349
10010107-1
(PATENT)

Claim 37 recites, among other things, "a scrambler device programmed to convert a data source encoded bit stream into grouped scrambled data." As such, Applicant respectfully points out that *Kumar* does not teach or anticipate Claims 1, 34, 35 and 37. Applicant respectfully requests that the §102 rejection be withdrawn and submits that these claims are ready for allowance.

Claim 5 is dependent upon Claim 1 and is therefore not anticipated for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to Claim 1.

Claims 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) for being anticipated by *Adam* (U.S. Patent Number 6,628,725).

Claim 6 has been amended to recite, among other things, "receiving the data bit stream, from an originating source, at a scrambler device, said data bit stream comprising data bits and other bits." Claim 6 continues by reciting, "converting said data bit stream into groups of scrambled data, by said scrambler device, prior to performing another data function on said data bit stream."

Adam, in Fig. 1, teaches a data stream 102 being provided to an encoder 104. The encoder 104 is shown in Fig. 2 as having a plurality of elements being 202, 204, 206, and 208. The encoder of *Adam*, in Fig. 2, reads the next six characters from the data stream at step 202; then at step 204, the encoder performs control character encoding and byte reordering. See *Adam* Column 3, Lines 44-50. It is not until after step 204 that *Adam* scrambles the data at step 206. *Adam* clearly teaches and performs a data encoding function prior to scrambling the received data from step 202.

Claim 6 recites, among other things, "converting said data bit stream into groups of scrambled data, by said scrambler device, prior to performing another data function on said data bit stream." Applicant respectfully submits that because *Adam* encodes the data at step 204 prior to scrambling the data at step 206, then *Adam* does not anticipate or teach Claim 6. Furthermore

DRAFTDocket No.: AGIL -27,349
10010107-1
(PATENT)

in Fig. 3 of *Adam*, it is noted that it is between steps 302 and 304 where code character encoding is performed. Code character encoding is not considered scrambling. Between steps 304 and 306 of Fig. 3 is where the scrambling occurs in *Adam*. Applicant further submits that *Adam* does not anticipate or teach converting "said data bit stream into groups of scrambled data, by said scrambler device, prior to performing another data function on said data bit stream." As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the §102 rejection be withdrawn and submits that Claim 6 is allowable.

With respect to Claims 7 and 8, these claims are either directly or indirectly dependent upon Claim 6 and are therefore not anticipated for similar reasons as discussed above with respect to Claim 6.

Regarding the § 103 Rejection

Claims 2 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being rendered obvious by *Kumar* in view of *Adam*. Claim 2 is dependent upon Claim 1 and is similarly distinguishable over *Kumar* in view of *Adam* by at least the virtue of its dependency from the patently distinct base Claim 1.

Claim 36 has been amended to recite, among other things, "receiving a data bit stream at a scrambler device, said data bit stream comprising data bits and other bits resulting from data source encoding." Claim 36 further recites "converting said data bit stream into grouped scrambled data, by said scrambler device, prior to performing another data function on said data bit stream." For the reasons discussed above with respect to the inadequacies of *Kumar* and *Adam*, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 36 is not rendered obvious or alluded to by the recited combination of references. Applicant respectfully requests that the §103 rejection be withdrawn and submits that Claim 36 is ready for allowance.

DRAFTDocket No.: AGIL-27,349
10010107-1
(PATENT)

Applicant further submits that the remaining claims are each similarly distinguishable over the prior art of record, at least by the virtue of each claim's ultimate dependency from a patently distinct base claim.

Applicant respectfully believes that all outstanding grounds raised by the Examiner have been addressed, and thus submits the present case is in condition for allowance, the early notification of which is earnestly solicited.

DRAFT

Dated: _____ 2006

Respectfully submitted,

DRAFT

By _____

Steven R. Greenfield

Registration No.: 38,166

Howison & Arnott LLP

Two Lincoln Center 5420 LBJ Freeway, Suite 660

Dallas, Texas 75240-2318

(972) 680-6058

Attorneys For Applicant